

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF TRAVELING PRESS, MONDAY, APRIL 29

FOR ANDERSON FROM HARE

SUMMARY: MODERATE TO HEAVY WIRE AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO GENEVA. EMPHASIS PLACED ON U.S. SEEKING SOVIET SUPPORT IN M.E. EFFORT AND FURTHER WORK ON SALT. ALL NOTE U.S. OFFICIAL SAYING MID-EAST CONFLICT COULD RESUME IF U.S. EFFORT FAILS.

1. UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER MEETS GROMYKO TO SEEK MID-EAST BACKING" GWERTZMAN STORY ON NYT FRONT PAGE LEFT LEAD ABOVE FOLD (PIX OF HAK AND GROMYKO PAGE 3) HAS KISSINGER MEETING GROMYKO TO ASSURE SOVIET COOPERATION IN MID-EAST AND TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES RELATED TO MOSCOW VISIT. GWERTZMAN REPORTS THAT KISSINGER CONSIDERS THIS HIS MOST DIFFICULT TRIP, THAT BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS COULD LEAD TO RENEWAL OF HOSTILITIES AND THAT INITIAL BRUNT OF DIPLO-MATIC ACTIVITY WILL FALL ON ISRAEL. NO DETAILED MENTION MADE OF SALT OR OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES.

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2. ON FRONT PAGE ABOVE FOLD (PIX OF HAK AND MRS. KISSINGER PAGE 20), BERGER OF POST GIVES EQUAL WEIGHT TO MID-EAST AND SALT UNDER HEAD "KISSINGER SEEKS SOVIET MID-EAST AID." QUOTES SENIOR OFFICIAL ON KISSINGER PLANE TO EFFECT THAT BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS COULD LEAD TO RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES. IMPLIES U.S. OFFICIALS FEEL ISRAEL MUST MAKE THE FIRST MOVE AND THAT KISSINGER BELIEVES SOVIETS WILL ASSUME A NEUTRAL POSITION IF GIVEN A ROLE IN DISENGAGEMENT. BERGER REFERS TO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN COMMENTS OF U.S. SENIOR OFFICIAL WHO SAYS KISSINGER HAS WORKED OUT NONE OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS HE DEPARTS FOR MIDDLE EAST AND THOSE OF ISRAELI SOURCES IN WASHINGTON WHO REPORT THE DEAL 80 PERCENT COMPLETED.

3. JHABVALA ON PAGE 9 WITH GLOBE STORY EMPHASIZING POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONFLICT UNDER HEAD "OFFICIAL ON KISSINGER TRIP SAYS MID-EAST CONFLICT MAY RESUME IF U.S. BID FAILS" (NO PIX). SAME OFFICIAL REPORTED VIEWING CURRENT TRIP AS MOST DELICATE AND UNCERTAIN DUE TO ISRAELI DOMESTIC SITUATION, SYRIAN RADICALISM AND SOVIET AMBIVALENCE. JHABVALA FEELS OFFICIAL'S REMARKS MEAN KISSINGER WILL LEAN ON ISRAEL TO "BUDGE" IT TOWARD COMPROMISE. REPORTS KISSINGER DEPENDING ON SUPPORT FROM SADAT, FEISAL AND BOUMEDIENNE.

4. SAIKOWSKI (CSM) FILES PAGE ONE BELOW FOLD ARTICLE WRITTEN PRIOR DEPARTURE AND NOT BASED ON PLANE BACKGROUND-ER. STRESSES INTERACTION WITH SOVIETS OVER M.E. PEACE SETTLEMENT. SECRETARY, SHE STATES, STARTS THIS TRIP "WITH A BOW IN THE DIRECTION OF THE RUSSIANS." GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS BEEN IN RECESS EVER SINCE IT FIRST MET . . . AND THE RUSSIANS FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD. SO TO REASSURE THEM, KISSINGER IS MEETING GROMYKO IN GENEVA.

5. FRONT PAGE BELOW FOLD, O'LEARY (WASHSTAR) LEAPS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY INTO U.S. CHARACTERIZATION OF THE SOVIET ROLE IN THE SYRIAN-ISRAELI CONFRONTATION. NOTING SECRETARY TERMED THIS ROLE AS "NOT UNHELPFUL" LAST WEEK, HE STATES THAT PRESSED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THAT PHRASE, A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN THE KISSINGER PARTY SAID "NOT UNHELPFUL" MEANS UNCLASSIFIED

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"A SHADE SHORT OF HELPFUL." THIS OFFICIAL SAID THE SOVIET UNION, ANXIOUS TO RETAIN INFLUENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IS ACTING IN A WAY THAT FALLS SHORT OF COOPERATION. O'LEARY ADDS THE BELIEF OF "THE SENIOR U.S. OFFICIAL" THAT "IF KISSINGER'S CURRENT MEDIATION EFFORT FAILS, THERE IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY OF RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES . . . (AND THAT KISSINGER) . . . CONSIDERS THAT ISRAEL WILL HAVE TO MAKE THE FIRST MOVE WITH SOME FORM OF WITHDRAWAL FROM ITS

FORWARD POSITIONS. . .

STAR'S PICKUP PAGE INCLUDES UPI DEPARTURE PHOTO OF SECRETARY AND MRS. KISSINGER AT ANDREWS.

6. NEWSWEEK LEADS INTERNATIONAL SECTION WITH PORTUGUESE UPSET AND FOLLOWS WITH 600 WORDS ON SECRETARY'S TRIP HEADLINED "ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH." THIS UNDER A TOP HEAD SPREAD OF AN OLIPHANT CARTOON SHOWING HAK IN ARABIAN TENT WITH A GROUP OF BORED SHEIKS SHOUTING INTO A TELEPHONE: "GOLDA, I'VE GOT THEM ALL LINED UP RIGHT HERE . . YOU'RE NOT??? -- WELL, WHO THE HELL IS IN CHARGE? . . . WAIT, GUYS, DON'T RUN OFF . . . GOLDA? . . ." PIECE A GOOD BASIC EXPLAINER OF SITUATION SECRETARY FACES AS HE SETS FORTH, BUT IS OTHERWISE UNREMARKABLE.

7. TIME HAS SOMEWHAT SHORTER STORY ALSO FOLLOWING PORTUGUESE LEAD IN FOREIGN SECTION, ACCOMPANIED BY PIX OF CLOGGED SUEZ AND U.S. FROGMEN DIVING THEREINTO. IT OUTLINES SITUATION IN TERMS SIMILAR TO NEWSWEEK ACCOUNT: THE LATE-BLOOMING U.S.-EGYPTIAN FRIENDSHIP; PROSPECTIVE U.S. AID TO EGYPT;
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